

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 8, 2008

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:35 am by Rick Landavazo
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
 - None
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - John Degenfelder – The monument sign in Ramona has been put up and we will be having a dedication on September 3rd if anyone would like to come.
4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2008 MINUTES
 - Approval of June 13, 2008 Minutes
MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 13, 2008 MINUTES – Paul Davis, 2nd John Carroll
ALL IN FAVOR – 6-0-1
5. SWEETWATER SUMMIT CAMPGROUND – Louis Chertkow
 - We have 43 campsites and over 600 acres of parkland and trails. We are equestrian friendly park and have campsites that accommodate equestrian campers and their horses.
 - We are full about 90% of the year with campers and the pavilion that we are in right now is booked almost every weekend.
 - ♦ Mike McCoy – Is there a connection between the Sweetwater and Otay Valley trails?
 - No, there is currently not a connection but we are trying to make those connections.
 - ♦ Paul Davis – Is there any published information about renting this pavilion.
 - Information about renting this pavilion is on the website.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – How often do you rent out this pavilion.
 - Most Saturdays and Sundays the pavilion is used.
 - ♦ Rob Hutsel – I have a special tie to Sweetwater and have done a lot of projects in this area.

DEPARTMENT REPORT – Mary Niez

- Distributed the department's June and July accomplishments information sheet.
- Distributed our new 2008-13 Strategic Plan.
- On July 1st we reopened Jess Martin County Park and there were numerous people from the community there and celebrations for the 4th of July throughout the weekend, as well as a Movie in the Park
- The Movies in the Park series is continuing throughout the county this summer.

- ♦ Paul Davis – Do you have any information on the fence project in the Tijuana River Valley?
 - The Department of Homeland Security condemned the land in this area to build the fence, so we are just watching the fence go up with everyone else.
 - ♦ Mike McCoy – Is there any update on the trails?
 - We are finalizing the construction documents and currently have 80% plans. However, we do not have the funding to actually build the trails, but are taking a passive approach to try and rehabilitate the habitat and modify the trails.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – What does a passive approach to the trails mean?
 - The current area has about 70 miles of trails that were just made by people going out and making their own trail and the plan is to take this down to 22 miles, so we have just placed some bollards and signs up on the trails that we are trying to close to allow the habitat to begin to grow back.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – I received a press release about the Sage Hill property, can you tell me more about this?
 - The Sage Hill property is a 234 acre parcel south of San Marcos and east of the Coast in the Elfin Forest area and includes sensitive gnatcatcher habitat as well as riparian.
6. PLDO and CSA Fund Balance Reports – Denbigh Dickson
- Distributed the PLDO and CSA reports.
 - There is one new item in the Crest/Dehesa/Harbison Canyon/Granite Hills area for a synthetic turf field at Granite Hills High School.
 - We can have a Joint Use Agreement with the school and the facility/field has to be available to the public. This would be after school hours.
 - ♦ Roger Utt – I have been reading a lot about the heat that is generated from the synthetic turf fields, is this something that you have looked into?
 - Yes, we are continually monitoring and looking at all of the different aspects of the turf.
7. PARK USER FEES ADJUSTMENT – Matt Bohan
- I think that this is our third time presenting this to you since June.
 - We have received very little feedback on this so far, so what you have in front of you is almost identical to what you saw back in June.
 - As you know we are setting up ranges for all of the fees to allow us to adjust the fees within this range. The last time we did a fee adjustment was in 2001, so it has been 7 years and we have reached the top of the current fee ranges for most of our fees.
 - ♦ Roger Utt – Can you please tell me what changes were made to this from the first document we received?
 - The only significant change we made from the comments were to put back some of the discount cards/programs.
 - ♦ Rob Hutsel – I think that this is a good proposal and you did a great job putting this together. I appreciate the non-profit rates.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – I think that the park fee matrix you are proposing is appropriate. I have reviewed this over the past few months and I think that this increase will bring our fees up to what is comparable with other agencies in the area. I think that it is important to have this to be able to continue to enhance and improve our parks and facilities.

MOTION – RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PARK USER FEES ADJUSTMENT
(WITH THE) – Rob Hutsel, 2nd Paul Davis
ALL IN FAVOR – 7-0-0

8. SWEETWATER PARK PROJECTS UPDATE – Gustavo Godoy

- Showed current drawings and plans for the expansion of the Sweetwater Summit Campground.
- We have been working with Caltrans on the mitigation for this project.
- There will be seven RV campsites including the entrance road, from which we will use for access to the remaining campsites.
- We are also planning to include a community building and playground.
- Caltrans will also be building a restroom, pavilion, and spray water park.
- It is supposed to be a revenue generating project, since the new campsites will allow for additional reservations and revenue for the park. If our occupancy stays flat we would expect about \$250,000 annually.
 - ♦ Rick – Will there be a soundwall or noise mitigation for this project?
- We did adjust a few of the campsites to accommodate for noise without putting up a wall or berm.
 - ♦ Rob Hutsel – Have you incorporated any of the green technology into this project?
- Most of the project is grading and paving
 - ♦ Roger Utt – It seems that if you used a double-loaded system for the driveway design you could reduce the amount of roadways.
- We did look at this, but arrived at the final design due to the pull-through sites to accommodate equestrian users because they are the prime users of this facility.

9. PARKS FOR PEOPLE WITH DOGS – Randy Ford

- We are trying to identify sites in the Lakeside area to have a park where dogs can be off-leash.
- We have not identified any specific sites at this time, but are working on it.
- We are looking to blend the dog park with the environment of the current park setting, so not to dramatically change the area and keep the impact as minimal as possible.
 - ♦ Mike McCoy – When you set these up make sure that there is not a conflict between the dogs and wildlife. Also, there is a study being done right now on the cardiovascular, weight control and social benefits of having companion dogs that you might want to look into.
 - ♦ Roger Utt – The City of San Diego is currently going through this process and I know that it is a very heated issue. I have been talking with a planner at the City that is working on this and I can put you in contact with her.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – It seems to me that the policy on dogs at open space preserves has evolved. I remember that previously dogs were not allowed in the preserves and now they are allowed on a leash and was wondering if this is something that will be looked at during this process. I know that it is difficult for the Rangers to enforce the leash policy in many of the parks and preserves because they are large and cannot be everywhere all the time.
 - ♦ John Degenfelder – There are also a lot of volunteers out there as well helping patrol.

- ♦ Rob Hutsel – Are you looking at currently county-owned land or purchasing land and how big of a park are you looking at?
- We are not looking to acquire new land. Approximately 1-2 acres.
 - ♦ Mike McCoy – I think that any of the areas that have sensitive habitat should have a mandate established that would not allow dogs on or off leash.
- Renée Bahl – We will have the department's dog policies and procedures on a future agenda for your review and discussion.

10. Adjournment at 9:40 am

ATTENDEES:

Mike McCoy, District 1
 John Carroll, District 1 (arrived 9:08 am)
 John Degenfelder, District 2 (arrived 9:17 am)
 Paul Davis, District 3
 Roger Utt, District 4
 Rob Hutsel, District 4
 Rick Landavazo, District 5
 Renée Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Mary Niez, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Denbigh Dickson, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Gustavo Godoy, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Randy Ford, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Matt Bohan, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Louis Chertkow, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation